THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

Rail mishap in Dhanbad Division

1934. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a speeding goods train rammed into a stationary passenger train at a station in Dhanbad Division of East Central Railway on 9th November, 2005;

(b) if so, the number of passengers killed and seriously injured as a result of the mishap;

(c) the amount of *ex-gratia* payment made in respect of those killed and injured;

(d) the cause of accident as established by the inquiry, action taken against the railway employees, if found responsible for the mishap; and

(e) the steps taken to prevent the recurrence of such accidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As a result of this accident, 9 persons lost their lives, 8 got grievously injured and 18 sustained minor/simple injuries.

(c) *Ex-gratia* relief of Rs. 9.29 lakhs has been paid to the kith and kin of the deceased and to the injured passengers.

(d) No report has been received from the Commissioner of Railway Safety, South Central Circle, who is conducting statutory inquiry into this accident. However, the officials who are *prima facie* responsible for the accident have been placed under suspension.

(e) Safety drive has been launched and monitoring is being done in related areas of train operation.

Privatization of rail-based container transportation

1935. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finalised any plan or policy for privatization of rail-based container transportation in the country; and